



# Tips for a Budget Trip to Ladakh

The big question: "Can I make a budget trip to Ladakh"? Let's have a look at how you could do it. The problem is that a trip to Ladakh needs a good number of days in hand, minimum about 10-11 days. And with that comes a whole lot of uncertainties owing to bad roads, landslides, AMS/health issues, etc. which puts a risk on the bookings for you. Hence, the importance of the amount of money spent per day becomes really important to reduce the overall cost of the Ladakh trip.

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## Travel in April/May OR August/September

Traveling in the less touristy season has its very own advantages or disadvantages. There are three reasons this could work out for you: Spot bookings which reduce the cost, discounts and offers due to the fewer tourists, the rush at the best spots is much lesser. You don't need to search for any Ladakh budget tour packages; instead, the cost of Leh Ladakh trip will reduce in the shoulder season automatically.

2

## Commute & Stay in Group of 3 to 5

Firstly, with accommodation, the costs when traveling in this optimal size brings down the cost of the rooms to a bare minimum. Concerning commute, a complete taxi could be hired for the whole group, and the costs could be shared. Consider hiring a tempo traveler if the group size is more significant. Self-Drive/ride on own car/bike is the cheapest and most flexible option. Camping in Ladakh is another option to reduce costs.

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## On the Spot Deals for Accommodation & Taxis

Firstly with on the spot booking the costs always come down. Booking online or on the phone is still costlier. You could also inspect the room before you book it, especially if you have some time to do it. Booking on the spot also brings flexibility in your itinerary. The taxi driver would usually get you good deals. Secondly, do not forget the 'Leave early, sleep early' principle, which inevitably brings in a reduction of overall costs.

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## Wisely Choose your Accommodation & its location

Consider living in the guest houses and homestay options in Ladakh which are also now well versed with cleanliness, comfortable beds & western toilets (though sometimes shared). To find decent yet economic places to stay in Manali, you can stay at Old Manali, Manali - Naggar Road, Vashisth. Similarly, Leh has full of such small budget spotless guest houses at Upper Tukcha Road, Fort Road, some clusters near Main Market, Zangsti road, etc.

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## Wisely choose the Places to Eat

If you eat at some of the essential restaurants / local dhabhas, then along with saving some good money, you also give yourself a chance to taste local as well as fresh food in general. Try and give yourself a chance to eat local Tibetan home cooked meal at such local eating joints. It does not mean that you don't eat at good restaurants, but all I am saying is make a mix of both to balance out the budget.

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## Pay for Individual Meals?

Well, though in a group of friends sometimes it looks odd in a country, especially ours but it is quite common to pay on the table individually, and there is nothing wrong at all in it. Things get a bit messy if you are not used to and people in the group are not proactive, but if done correctly, it does help in saving money.

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## Air Travel? Plan in Advance

Air tickets in the season time for Leh Ladakh are CRAZY high, but if you plan your trip to Ladakh well in advance, it is always better to book your tickets well in advance as applicable for other places. Keep a lookout for flash sales from Spicejet, Indigo, and GoAir.

### Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



### #SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles